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REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Letter dated 5 February 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that on 17 December 1997 the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine ratified the agreement between Ukraine and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the application of safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In accordance with the established procedure, the agreement entered into force on 22 January 1998.

The significance of this event could hardly be overestimated. The agreement regulates the verification activities in the sphere of implementation of the Treaty. A set of measures envisaged by the agreement constitutes an integral part of international efforts in arms control, nuclear non-proliferation and combating the illicit trafficking of nuclear material.

The implementation of the agreement will contribute to the improvement of the national system of accounting for and control of nuclear material, the physical protection of nuclear material and the development of national legislation on export and import of nuclear material.

This event has particular importance in the light of the IAEA programme on strengthening the effectiveness of the safeguards system, aimed at further improvement of the international regime of nuclear non-proliferation.

By setting up the IAEA inspection regime, Ukraine has made a significant contribution to the development of international cooperation and the promotion of global security and stability.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency", in all official languages of the United Nations.

(Signed) Volodymyr YEL'CHENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations